

Spectator/Visitor Code

Meridian CUSD #15 strives to provide its students with a wide variety of opportunities to participate in many different clubs, organizations and athletic teams.

As a result, Meridian CUSD #15 firmly believes the following:

- Extracurricular activities are an extension of the classroom.
- Extracurricular activities are for the benefit and enjoyment of the student and school community.
- Extracurricular activities build character traits such as leadership, teamwork, honesty, integrity, fair play and sportsmanship.
- Extracurricular activities should serve to build communication skills in students and teach the important role effective communication plays in everyday life.
- Extracurricular activities should teach students to be both successful and to overcome adversity.
- Extracurricular activities should enhance a student's educational experience and not be the major component of attending school.
- Extracurricular activities should foster student and school pride.
- Extracurricular activities should always be viewed as an important component of a well rounded and enriching school experience.
- Extracurricular activities and participation are a privilege for students and not a right.
- Extracurricular success is not determined by wins but, rather, by the growth and development of players and participants. Winning is a byproduct of this success.

Meridian CUSD #15 recognizes student participation in extracurricular activities requires support from parents, family members, friends, and community members. Because of this, the district recognizes visitors to our campus are often times a major component of these activities, particularly in athletics. Meridian CUSD #15, therefore, has established the following expectation for all visitors, to any event, held under the banner of any Meridian school:

- Spectators and visitors will conduct themselves, at all times, with integrity and decency towards others.
- Spectators and visitors will refrain from using language and or actions which could embarrass students, the school district, and themselves.
- Spectators and visitors should emulate the same qualities of leadership, honesty, and integrity the district seeks to build within its students.
- Spectators and visitors should always abide by the established guidelines of sportsmanship and fair play set forth by the IHSA and IESA.
- Spectator and visitor conduct should always be positive and a reflection of the school district, its mission, vision and goals.

Aside from the above mentioned expectations, Meridian CUSD #15 also has set forth expectations specific to the relationship between player, parent, and coach. Understanding and adhering to these expectations will help to ensure a positive experience for all as it pertains to extracurricular activities.

- The coach or sponsor is, first and foremost, a teacher on the court, field of play or alternative setting.
- Coaches and sponsors are the authority over their team or group; they set expectations, policies and provisions for their particular sport or club while adhering to the policies and guidelines of the school district.
- Coaches and sponsors are the authority on all matters pertaining to their particular sport or organization. These matters include, but are not limited to, playing time or participation, violations of team/organization rules, etc.
- Students should be encouraged to be responsible, accountable and good communicators. If an issue arises, the student, not a parent or guardian, should initiate a conversation with the respective coach or sponsor.
- Meridian CUSD #15 believes, firmly, in the ideals of the “Chain of Command”. Following this chain is a productive method for alleviating concerns or issues with the individuals directly involved.
 - This “Chain of Command” should be initiated with a student to coach/sponsor discussion of concerns.
 - Meetings with parents will only be held if this student to coach/sponsor conversation has occurred.
 - The initial meeting between parent and coach will be arranged through the coach/sponsor and parent and not district administration or Board of Education members.
 - Subsequent meetings, if necessary, may include building level administrators.
 - Further appeals can be made with the Superintendent of Schools, and then the Board of Education after all proper steps have been taken.
 - Meetings/discussions will not take place before or after games or practices unless prior arrangements with the coach have been made.

Right to Attend Refusal

In the event spectators/visitors are unable to abide by the aforementioned expectations, Meridian CUSD #15 reserves the right to refuse a spectator/visitors right to attend contests, programs or school functions that is outlined in board policies 8:30 and 8:40 (See Attached) of the Meridian CUSD #15 Board Policy Manual. Meridian CUSD #15 believes in a system of progressive refusal and, therefore, maintains the authority to refuse attendance for one game/event up to a one calendar year ban